



The Conservation Corner

Newsletter of the Charleston, S. C. Soil and Water Conservation District

Summer 2008

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L-R, Marc Cribb, William S. Simpson and Steve DeKozlowski.

SIMPSON SWORN IN FOR NEW TERM

William S. Simpson, III was sworn in as Chairman of the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District on June 3rd, 2008 at the District's Annual Awards Recognition Dinner by DNR (Department of Natural Resources) Marc Cribb and Steve DeKozlowski. Mr. Simpson, a native of Anderson County, graduate of Clemson University, and currently Senior Vice-President of Sanders Brothers Construction Company, started his long tenure with the District in 1977 when he joined the board as an elected commissioner. He was appointed as chairman of the District in 1988 where he continues to lead with a strong commitment to our natural resources.



Left, William S. Simpson, being sworn in again as Chairman by DNR Marc Cribb (Assistant Chief, Conservation Districts) and Steve J. DeKozlowski (Interim Deputy Director, LWC Division, SC DNR).

A Conservation District is a sub-division of state government under the local control of a five member Board of Commissioners. In each District, two Board members are appointed by the SC DNR Board and three are elected on the general ballot, non-partisan tickets. The term of office of a Board member is four years and the position is non-salaried.

The Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank Mr. Simpson for his years of dedication to the natural resources of Charleston County !

JACK DAY TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION



Jack T. Day will run for re-election in the 2008 General Election this November. Please vote!!

The 2008 General Election will be held in November. The Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District will have a Commissioner position filled in this election. The election of Conservation District Commissioners are non-salaried officials who serve on a five-member board. These individuals serve as Conservation District Commissioners in each of the state's forty-six Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Candidates must

be registered voters in the county in which they are seeking office. Each year Conservation District Commissioners volunteer thousands of hours promoting soil and water conservation practices in urban and rural areas, and combating erosion and storm water problems.

Each Commissioner candidate must submit to the county election commission a nominating petition with the signatures of 100 qualified electors (registered voters).

Jack Day has served as a Commissioner on the Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District board since 2000. Mr. Day is a graduate of Clemson University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He retired from the Charleston Naval Shipyard in 1989. He and his wife Betty reside in Stono Ferry Plantation and have two children.

Mr. Day is a strong supporter of conservation education and recruits students for our environmental programs.

DISTRICT IN ACTION



Charleston AFB Earth Day



Raymond L. Tumbleston receives 2007 Outstanding Commissioner award from SCACD President, Greg Henderson.



Soil Stewardship and the protection of our water is everyone's Responsibility!



West Ashley High School Team!

West Ashley placed fifth in the poster competition where they designed a geo-cache program for the state parks. Congrats!!

EARTH DAY CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE

Over 800 5th grade students from throughout the Lowcountry area participated in this annual Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration sponsored by Charleston Air Force Base. The District featured an exhibit that stressed the importance of conserving and protecting our water resources. William Kennerty, William Wilkes and Debbie Eckard gave presentations on this very valuable natural resource.

SOUTHEASTERN WILDLIFE EXPO

The District sponsored a booth to display the various activities available to Lowcountry citizens interested in conservation of our natural resources.

The display highlighted an exhibit that encouraged urban property owners to participate in practices that protect and

ENVIROTHON

The 2008 Envirothon was held on May 2nd, 2008 at Sandhill in Columbia. Approximately eighteen teams from all over the state participated in this terrific program. The topic for this year was "Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources". This year's winning team was **Spartanburg High School** (hold down CTRL button while you click on word **Spartanburg** to see more info) Charleston District is pleased to announce that we sponsored a new team this year, **West Ashley High School** coached by

JANUARY PARTNER CONFERENCE

The Annual Partnership Conference was held at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, Jan. 15-18, 2008. This year's topic "**The Future of our Water**" focused on water quality /quantity challenges that SC may face in the near future. Topics such as watershed assessment, defining and addressing concerns in impaired watersheds were addressed.

The conference was jointly sponsored by SC Association of

encourage wildlife habitats.

Over 40,000 attendees visited the Conservation area where District/NRCS staff had an opportunity to interact with fellow wildlife conservationists. The EXPO was held February 15-17 at Marian Square and was the 10th consecutive year that the District was invited to participate.

Science Department Chair, Margaret Spigner. We would like to congratulate this team and look forward to next year!!

LEGISLATIVE DINNER

The annual Legislative Reception/Dinner was held Tuesday, February 19th, 6PM at Seawell's in Columbia. The SCACD "**Legislative Appreciation Award**" went to Rep. Annette D. Young and "**The President's Award**" went to Sen. Yancey McGill.

Conservation Districts; SC Department of Natural Resources and the USDA/ Natural Resources Conservation Service.

An awards luncheon was also held where several individuals were recognized for their contributions to conservation. Our very own **Raymond L. Tumbleston** was recognized as a "**Outstanding Conservation District Conservationist for 2007**". Mr. Tumbleston has dedicated his entire life to conservation. *Congratulations !!*

SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

Soil Stewardship Week was celebrated **April 27-May 4, 2008**. This year's topic was "**Water Is Life**". The District donated free materials to churches in the area. Contact the District if your church would be interested in learning more about Soil Stewardship. Let's all become wise stewards of our water!

GARDEN CLUBS

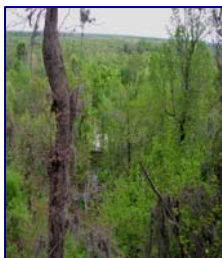
"**Bringing the Natural World Indoors**" is a program that is available to garden clubs and other civic organizations. This program focuses on ways to incorporate **backyard conservation** measures in your yard. Topics such as composting, native species planting, trees, and attracting wildlife to your yard are highlighted.

Call Debbie at 727-4160 x 3 for more information!

DISTRICT EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

EDISTO-SAVANNAH AREA MEETING

The Edisto-Savannah Area Meeting was hosted by the Calhoun Soil & Water Conservation District on Tuesday, April 22nd. A tour of the Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve Educational Center followed the business meeting and lunch.



LANDER INSTITUTE

The SC Institute for Natural Resource Conservation is conducted by Lander University and is an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors from across the state to study the environment up close for a week and leave with multiple rewards. The District was pleased to sponsor **Cecelia McTighe, a 10th grader from The School of the Arts**. This event was held June 23-27th.



2008 POSTER WINNERS

The 2008 Poster Contest topic was **“Waste Not, Want Not”**.

The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten - Montessori Community School, Terry Hartnett, Teacher.

Kindergarten - Montessori Community School, Carla Moore, Teacher.

Kindergarten division tied for first place this year!!

First Grade - Hunley Park Elementary School, Allison Cataldo, Teacher.

Second Grade - W. B. Goodwin Elementary School, Sherrill Kirkland, Teacher.

Third Grade - Montessori Community School, Julie Hund, Teacher.

Fourth Grade - Hunley Park Elementary School, Joan K. Doran, Teacher.

Fifth Grade - Hunley Park Elementary School, Katherine McCulloch, Teacher.

2008 ESSAY WINNER

This year's Essay Topic was **“Waste Not, Want Not”**.

6th Grade - Student Devante Jenkins of James Simons Elementary School, Octavia Smith, Teacher.

Congratulations to all schools and students who placed in this year's competition!!



“Waste Not, Want Not”

How much water do you waste? Can you think of ways to conserve???

AWARDS DINNER

The Charleston Conservation District held an Awards Recognition Dinner June 3, 2008 at Gilligan's Seafood to honor outstanding individuals who promote conservation in the classroom and on the ground.

This year the District honored several outstanding recipients with the following awards:

Best Conservation Poster Award- Carla Moore's Kindergarten Class, Montessori Community School.

Best Conservation Essay Award - 6th Grader, Devante Jenkins and Teacher Olivia Smith, of James Simons Elementary.

Conservation Teacher of the Year - Julie Hund of Montessori Community School.

Outstanding School Participation Award Presented to Teachers Allison Cataldo, Joan Doran, Katherine McCulloch of Hunley Park Elementary School.

2008 Conservationist of the Year Mr. & Mrs. Elgie Moore of Summerville. **Congratulations to all of these outstanding conservationists! Photos on page 5..**

DISTRICT SPONSORS SCIENCE FAIR

The Lowcountry Science and Engineering Fair, sponsored by The College of Charleston, was held in March at the Shrine Temple in Mt. Pleasant. The Fair brings together hundreds of the areas



brightest and best high school juniors and seniors who presented a variety of science and engineering projects, ranging from biochemistry to zoology.

The District sponsored two \$75 savings bonds to the following students:

William Jones
Senior Division Winner

Patrick Hampton
Junior Division Winner

FIRST PLACE POSTER
WINNERS!

POSTER & ESSAY WINNING PICS



*Kindergarten Class from Montessori Community School
Teacher, Terry Hartnett.*

*There was a
tie for first
place in the
Kindergarten
Division!*



*Kindergarten Class from Montessori
Community School, Teacher, Carla Moore.*



*Above, First Grade Class
from
Hunley Park Elementary
School

Teacher,
Allison Cataldo*



*Julie Hund's Third Grade Class from Montessori
Community School. Teacher Assistant Robin Prosisie,
center, accepts award from Debbie Eckard, right.*



*William C. Kennerty presents award to Fourth
Grade Class from Hunley Park Elementary and
Teacher Joan K. Doran.*



*Fifth Grade Class from Hunley Park Elementary
School and Teacher Katherine McCulloch receive
poster award from Commissioner
William C. Kennerty.*



*Debbie Eckard presents 6th Grade Essay award
to Devante Jenkins of James Simons
Elementary School. Teacher Olivia Smith
not shown.*

2008 Conservation Enviromental/Education Awards

AWARDS RECOGNITION DINNER



*Best Conservation Poster - Carla Moore-Center, Kindergarten Class, Montessori Community School
Presentation by William Simpson and Debbie Eckard.*



Best Conservation Essay - Presentation to Devante Jenkins, 6th Grader, and Teacher Octavia Smith, Right, of James Simons Elementary School.



Best School Participation Award presented to Hunley Park Elementary. Teachers Katherine McCulloch and Joan K. Doran accept awards for their school.



Conservation Teacher of the Year, Julie Hund and Assistant Robin Prorise of Montessori Community School. Presentation by William Simpson and Debbie Eckard



2008 Conservationist of the Year - Mr. & Mrs. Elgie Moore. Presentation by Ann Bentley, Natural Resources Conservation Service and William Simpson, Chairman.

Ten Year Recognition

Debbie was recognized at the Awards Dinner by William S. Simpson, Chairman, for her ten years of service to the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District.

Debbie has worked with the District for the past ten years as the Office Manager and Education Coordinator. Debbie coordinates all the education programs for the District.



William S. Simpson presents award to Debbie Eckard

CHARLESTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT JOINS ASHLEY COOPER STORMWATER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

The Charleston Conservation District joined with eleven local governments to protect water quality in the area. Partners in the effort, named the Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium, held a ceremony July 29th at the City Gallery in downtown Charleston's Waterfront Park. The group gathered to adopt a resolution to address stormwater education and outreach efforts at a regional level.

Area leaders stressed the importance of water conservation, "It is important to educate citizens on the things they can do at home to help improve water quality. We all must contribute to the effort of keeping our swimming and fishing areas clean and free of pollution," said Charleston County Council chairman, Timothy Scott. The water quality effort is headed by Clemson University's Carolina Clear



An egret stares down the barrel of a stormwater discharge pipe in downtown Charleston.



Program. It's goal is to improve water quality through outreach to the general public, youth, construction interests, homeowners, and government officials. The Environmental Protection Agency requires that certain municipalities and counties address polluted stormwater runoff through public education. The Charleston Conservation District is one of a handful of education partners that will assist Clemson and area governments with their stormwater efforts. The Charleston District addresses stormwater through engagement of local students with poster and essay contests, scholarships, sponsorships, awards, in-class programs and educational material on water quality and natural resources.

The City of Charleston's Mayor Joseph Riley said of the initiative, **"Stormwater runoff into our lakes, rivers and oceans is one of those issues where our individual actions make a difference. What we know now is that each one of us has a role to plan in cleaning up this form of pollution."**

Above, Mayor Riley spoke about the importance of stormwater for our coastal community at the July 29th press conference.

Photos on this page are courtesy of Clemson University

Education Partners

- Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service - Carolina Clear program
- S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and extension program
- S.C. Department of Natural Resources - Soil and Water Conservation districts
- S.C. Department of Natural Resources and ACE Basin NERR (National Estuarine Research Reserve) Coastal Training Program
- S.C. Department of Natural Resources-SCORE (S.C. Oyster Restoration and Enhancement) program
- College of Charleston - Master's of Environmental Studies program
- Lowcountry Earth Force
- Michaux Conservancy
- Spirit of South Carolina

Eleven Community Partners

1. Berkeley County: Daniel W. Davis, supervisor, Chairman of the County Council
2. Charleston County: Timothy E. Scott, County Council Chairman
3. Dorchester County: Larry S. Hargett, County Council Chairman
4. City of Charleston: Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr.
5. City of Folly Beach: Mayor Carl B. Beckmann Jr.
6. City of Hanahan: Mayor Minnie N. Blackwell
7. City of Isle of Palms: Mayor F. Mitchael Sottile
8. City of Lincolnville: Mayor Tyrone E. Aiken
9. City of North Charleston: Mayor R. Keith Summey
10. Town of Sullivan's Island: Mayor Carl Smith
11. Town of Summerville: Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Brown



Natural Resources Conservation Service News

USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to help South Carolina landowners address natural resource concerns, promote environmental quality, and protect wildlife habitat on property they own or control. The cost-share funds currently available in Charleston County are through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

The NRCS and the Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District staff are accepting applications at our new office location in North Charleston. The sign-up deadline for 2009 cost share funding is **September 30, 2008**, although we accept applications at any time. Cost share rates are available ranging from 50% to 90% of an average state cost rate pending eligibility and program opportunities.

The EQIP and WHIP offer many opportunities. EQIP conservation practices are planned as needed to address specific existing resource concerns. Through EQIP, farmers improve production while protecting environmental quality by addressing such concerns as soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality and animal and plant species. EQIP also assists eligible small-scale farmers who have historically not participated in or ranked high enough to be funded in previous program sign ups.

EQIP Conservation Practices may include:

- Filter strips
- Field borders
- Pasture planting
- Cross fence / Rotational grazing
- Cover crops
- Pipelines for livestock water
- Water troughs and Heavy Use Areas
- Pest Management
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management



Field Borders provide erosion control and improve wildlife habitat.

WHIP Conservation Practices may include:

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Prescribed burning
- Hedgerows
- Firebreaks
- Forest stand improvement

WHIP provides cost share for conservation practices planted to improve habitat for declining species including quail and songbirds.

These programs are competitive and are based on an environmental ranking score to secure funding. If you have any interest in these programs or any technical assistance on your land to benefit your natural resources, please call us at 727-4160 ext. 3 for more information.

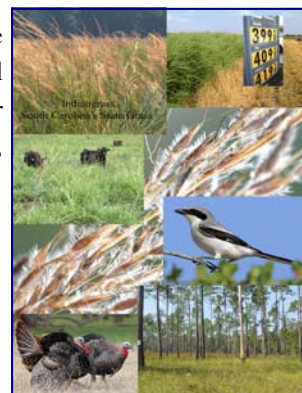
Sixth Eastern Native Grass Symposium

October 7-10, 2008, Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Columbia SC

The South Carolina Native Plant Society is co-sponsoring this national symposium on native grasses of the eastern US. This symposium will bring together scientists, growers, ecologists, geneticists, seed producers, wildlife managers, public land managers, and native plant enthusiasts, all with interest in our wonderful native grasses. For more information about the program, registration, hotel arrangements, etc., go to www.clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E_Native_Grass

Topics will include:

- Ecology and genetics of native grasses
- Native grass communities
- Native grasses and wildlife
- Aesthetic use of native grasses
- Propagation and establishment
- Eastern seed source development
- Native grasses as forage
- Native grasses as feed-stocks; and many more!

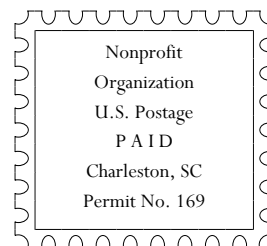


www.scnps.org/engs/
for more information!

CHARLESTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2070 Northbrook Blvd., Ste. A-8

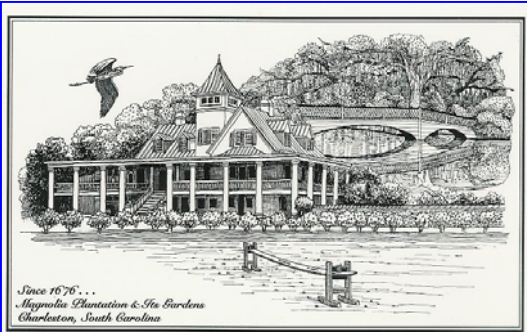
N. Charleston, SC 29406-9253



PLEASE HELP US CONSERVE! *If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, email us your address to: debbie.eckard@sc.nacdnet.net*

2008 ADVERTISER AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Support your District and become an **Affiliate Member!**



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Toll Free 800 - 476-3758

Commissioners

William S. Simpson, III, Chairman
William C. Kennerty – Vice-Chair, Treasurer
Raymond L. Tumbleston, Secretary
Jack T. Day
Kathy Woolsey

Commissioner Emeritus

W. C. Geraty
Van Noy Thornhill

Associate Commissioners

Brian Celek
Barbara Neale
William D. Wilkes

District Staff

Debbie Eckard, Office Manager &
Education Coordinator

SC Department of Natural Resources

Lindsay Fairchilds, Conservation Specialist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Ruthie Davis, District Conservationist
Ann Bentley, Soil Conservation Technician
William D. Wilkes, Conservation Technician

Martin Marietta Materials



Affiliate Membership Levels:

Contributing \$25	Sustaining \$100
Associate \$50	Advertising \$250 plus

The Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District meets the Second Tuesday of each month, 3:30 PM at 2070 Northbrook Blvd., Ste. A-8, North Charleston, SC .
Our meetings are open to the public!

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.